

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 CHIANG 00057 01 OF 02 022303Z

61/17

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SNM-02 SSO-00 /012 W

----- 095286

O 010639Z MAR 76 ZFG

FM AMCON CHIANG MAI

TO SEC/STATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 296

DEA HQS WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDI

ATE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 CHIANG MAI 0057

(CORRECT EDCOPY TEXT PARA 5)

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR

SUBJECT: WB-76-0012/DA3-E3; TA SAE SONG, ET AL

BANGKOK PASS DEA FOR RD ADDARIO

### SUMMARY:

1. ON 28 FEBRUARY 1976, AT APPROXIMATELY 0700 HOURS, AT BAN MAE SA MAI, A UNPDAC SATELLITE VILLAGE, THREE EL POLICEMEN WERE AMBUSHED AND KILLED, TWO(2) WERE WOUNDED AND A PROVINCIAL POLICE (PP) C/E WAS WOUNDED WHILE ATTEMPTING TO ARREST TWO (2) SUSPECTED NARCOTICS TRAFFICKERS. A DEA SPONSORED U.S. \$3,000.00 "FLASHROLL", THIRTY-TWO (32) KILOGRAMS OF RAW OPIUM AND TWO (2) PERSONAL SIDEARMS OF THE DEAD POLICEMEN WERE TAKEN FROM THE OFFICIAL POLICE VEHICLE. ONE OF THE SUSPECTS, TA SAE SONG, WAS ARRESTED. PP PERSONNEL ARE ATTEMPTING TO IDENTIFY ADDITIONAL SUSPECTS. THE FOLLOWING CIRCUMSTANCES HAVE BEEN CONSTRUCTED BASED ON INITIAL POLICE PROVIDED BRIEFING, ON SITE OBSERVATIONS, ASSISTANCE IN THE HOMICIDE INVESTIGATION, INTERVIEW OF SURVIVING POLICE PERSONNEL AND CONVERSATIONS WITH HIGH RANKING THAI NATIONAL POLICE DEPARTMENT (TNPd) PERSONNEL.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 CHIANG 00057 01 OF 02 022303Z

2. ON 27 FEBRUARY 1976, AT APPROXIMATELY 1600 HOURS, PP

DEPUTY PROVINCIAL COMMANDSI, LTC. NIRUN WITYAWUDTHIKUL CONTACTED THE CMDO AND REQUESTED TO MEET WITH A CMDO AGENT TO PROVIDE A BRIEFING ON POSSIBLE NARCOTICS OPERATION. LTVUMQNIRUN ADDITIONALLY REQUESTED THE USE OF TWO (2) DEA PORTABLE RADIOS AND THE DEA SPONSORED FLASHROLL. (COMMENT: DEA REGULARLY PROVIDES THE TNPD WITH A U.S. \$5000.00 FLASHROLL FOR ANY OF THEIR OPERATIONS.) S/A POWERS AND I/A YONG THONGKHAM MET WITH LTC. NIRUN AND WAS PROVIDED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION.. BASED ON INFORMATION PROVIDED BY A PP CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANT, WHOM LTC. NIRUN CONSIDERED TO BE RELIABLE (THIS PP INFORMANT HAD PROVIDED INFORMATION RESULTING IN THE SEIZURE REPORTED IN WB-75-0044); HE HAD STATED THAT MEO HILLTRIBES PEOPLE HAD CONTACTED HIM AT HIS RESIDENCE IN MAE RIM, THAILAND AND REQUESTED THAT HE LOCATE BUYERS FOR 20 CHOI (32 KGS) OF RAW OPIUM. SGT. PATPONG HAD BEEN ASSIGNED TO BE THE UNDERCOVER POLICEMAN AND SURVEILLANCE POLICEMEN WERE SGT. GIAT, SGT. ANANT, SGT. RUAM, CORPORAL SUNTHORN AND PRIVATE GASEM. THE TRANSACTION WAS TO TAKE PLACE AT BAN PONG YAENG NAI. THE REQUESTED DEA EQUIPMENT WAS PROVIDED.

3. LATER ON THAT EVENING, SGT. PATBONG AND THE C/I MET WITH AN INDIVIDUAL LATER IDENTIFIED AS TA SAE SONG AND ANOTHER UNIDENTIFIED INDIVIDUAL TO NEGOTIATE THE PURCHASE OF THE RAW OPIUM. TA SAE SONG STATED HE HAD ELEVEN (11) CHOI (24 KGS) OF OPIUM AVAILABLE AT THAT TIME AND THAT HE WOULD HAVE THE ADDITIONAL NINE (9) CHOI OF OPIUM THE FOLLOWING MORNING. TA SAE SONG STATED THAT HE WANTED THE TRANSACTION TO TAKE PLACE IN THE VILLAGE WHERE HF WAS THE ASSISTANT VILLAGE CHIEF. SGT. PATPONG ATTEMPTED TO HAVE THE DELIVERY SITE CHANGED, BUT TA SAE SONG WAS ADAMANT IN SELECTING THE DELIVERY SITE. AT THIS TIME SGT. PATPONG WAS UNAWARE THAT THE VILLAGE WAS A UNPDAC SATELLITE VILLAGE.

4. ON 28 FEBRUARY 1976, AT APPROXIMATELY 0700 HOURS, LTC. NIRUN CONTACTED S/A POWERS AND REQUESTED THEY MEET TOGETHER IN MAE RIM. UPON ARRIVAL, S/A POWERS WAS ADVISED BY LTC. NIRUN THAT HIS OPERATIONAL TEAM HAD DEPARTED CHIANG MAI AT APPROXIMATELY 0300 HOURS AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 CHIANG 00057 01 OF 02 022303Z

HAD GONE TO THE MAE RIM PP STATION WHERE THEY HAD ACQUIRED ADDITIONAL WEAPONS AND A PP RADIO FOR THE SURVEILLANCE TEAM. THE NEGOTIATIONS WERE TO START AT APPROXIMATELY 0630 HOURS AND THIS WOULD GIVE THE OPERATION TEAM AMPLE TIME TO OBTAIN SURVEILLANCE POSITIONS AND FOR-

MULATE FINAL RAID PLANS. LTC. NIRUN HAD PROVIDED SGT. PATPONG WITH A SEARCH WARRANT.

5. SGT. PATPONG AND THE C/I, UNDERCOVER OF THE SURVEILLANCE TEAM, ENTERED THE VILLAGE (LATER IDENTIFIED TO BE BAN MAE SA MAI) TO CONTINUE THE NEGOTIATIONS. SGT. PATPONG AND THE INFORMANT ENTERED THE RESIDENCE OF TA SAE SONG AND NEGOTIATED FOR THE DELIVERY OF THE OPIUM WHILE THE SURVEILLANCE TEAM WAS APPROXIMATELY 25 YARDS DISTANCE LOCATED IN AN OFFICIAL POLICE VEHICLE BEING UTILIZED FOR UNDERCOVER PURPOSES. THE NEGOTIATIONS WERE CONCLUDED BY TA SAA SONG AND THE OTHER INDIVIDUAL GOING TO DELIVER THE OPIUM TO THE VEHICLE AND THEY REQUESTED \$1,500.00 BE FURNISHED AT THAT TIME. SGT. PATPONG GAVE TA SAE SONG THE MONEY AS HE WOULD BE ACCOMPANYING TA SAE SONG AT ALL TIMES. UPON ARRIVING AT THE POLICE VEHICLE, TA SAE SONG AND THE OTHER INDIVIDUAL PLACED THE OPIUM IN THE POLICE VEHICLE AND REQUESTED THE REMAINING PAYMENT. AT THIS TIME, SGT. PATPONG IDENTIFIED HIMSELF AS A POLICE OFFICER AND TOLD THE SUSPECTS THEY WERE UNDER ARREST FOR NARCOTICS VIOLATIONS. (COMMENT: SGT. RUAM AND CORPORAL SUNTHORN WERE WEARING POLICE UNIFORMS COVERED BY FIELD JACKETY. PREVIOUS RAID PLANS HAD INCLUDED AT THE TIME OF THE ARREST SGT. RUAM AND CORPORAL SUNTHORN WOULD TAKE OFF THE FIELD JACKETS SO THAT THERE WOULD BE NO QUESTION AS TO THE POLICE IDENTITY.) AS SOON AS SGT. PATPONG IDENTIFIED HIMSELF AS A POLICEMAN, THE TWO (2) SUSPECTS YELLED IN THE MEO DIALECT, WHICH WAS NOT UNDERSTOOD BY THE POLICEMEN, AND TEN-TO-TWENTY (10-20) UNIDENTIFIED INDIVIDUALS HIDING IN CONCEALED POSITIONS OPENED FIRE ON THE POLICE AND THE POLICE VEHICLE WITH CARBINES, SHOTGUNS AND 45'S. AS THE POLICEMEN ATTEMPTED TO FLEE THE AMBUSH SITE VIA THE POLICE VEHICLE SGT. RUAM WAS KILLED AND CORPORAL SUNTHORN WHO WAS DRIVING THE VEHICLE WAS KILLED; THE OTHER POLICEMEN WERE WOUNDED. THE POLICE VEHICLE WHICH WAS NOT UNDER CONTROL, CAREENED, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 04 CHIANG 00057 01 OF 02 022303Z

AND CAME TO STOP IN A DEEP TRENCH. SGT. PATPONG ORDERED THE SURVIVORS TO EXIT THE VEHICLE AND FIND A HIDING PLACE. THE SURVIVING POLICE AND INFORMANT OBTAINED THEIR WEAPONS AND RADIOS AND HID IN A TRENCH. SGT. ANANT WAS WOUNDED SERIOUSLY AT THIS TIME AND ATTEMPTED TO APPLY A TURNIQUET TO HIS LEG. THE POLICE DIVIDED UP INTO TWO (2) TEAMS OF TWO (2) MEN EACH AND ATTEMPTED TO LOCATE ASSISTANCE. SGT. ANANT WHO WAS UNABLE TO PROCEED WAS HIDDEN APPROXIMATELY 25 YARDS AWAY FROM THE VEHICLE.

6. AT APPROXIMATELY 0830 HOURS, LTC. NIRUN AND S/A POWERS PROCEEDED TO BAN PONG YAENG NAI AS LTC NIRUN WAS BECOMING CONCERNED ABOUT HIS MEN AS THEY SHOULD HAVE RETURNED BY THAT TIME. LTC. NIRUN MADE INQUIRIES, HOWEVER, NO INFORMATION WAS OBTAINED.

7. AT APPROXIMATELY 0900 HOURS, LTC. NIRUN ADVISED  
BY MAE RIM PP THAT DISTRESS CALL HAD BEEN RECEIVED FROM

SGT. PATPONG AND THE VILLAGE WAS IDENTIFIED. LTC. NIRUN  
REQUESTED THAT S/A POWERS ACCOMPANY HIM.

8. UPON APPROACHING THE VILLAGE, LTC. NIRUN WAS ABLE TO  
ESTABLISH RADIO CONTACT WITH SGT. PATPONG ON THE DEA  
RADIO. SGT. PATPONG ADVISED LTC. NIRUN OF THE SITUATION  
AND SGT. PATPONG WAS ABLE TO BE LOCATED. EMERGENCY FIRST  
AID WAS GIVEN TO SGT. PATPONG AND THE INFORMANT AND TWO  
(2) PP WERE ASSIGNED AS PROTECTION. SGT. PATPONG STATED  
C O N F I D E N T I A L

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

MRN: 1976CHIANG000057 SEGMENT NUMBER: 000002 ERROR READING TEXT INDEX  
FILE; TELEGRAM TEXT FOR THIS SEGMENT IS UNAVAILABLE

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DRUG TRAFFIC, ARRESTS, DEATHS, POLICE FORCES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 01 MAR 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** morefirh  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976CHIANG00057  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** COMPLETE TEXT ON MICROFILM  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** CORE1  
**Film Number:** P760039-0469  
**From:** CHIANG MAI  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t197603109/aaaadrxd.tel  
**Line Count:** 187  
**Locator:** TEXT ON MICROFILM, ADS TEXT UNRETRIEVABLE  
**Office:** ACTION EA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 4  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** morefirh  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 04 JUN 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <04 JUN 2004 by ellisoob>; APPROVED <07 JUL 2004 by morefirh>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** W-76-0012/DA3-E3; TA SAE SONG, ET AL  
**TAGS:** SNAR, TH, (TA SAE SONG)  
**To:** STATE DEA  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006